

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. Claims 1-4, 7, and 8, which are independent, are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,819,092 to Ferguson, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Ferguson").

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“...judgment means for forming a judgment as to which of at least two parties initiated an action for transferring one or more data units through said network;

multiplexing means for multiplexing a unit cost per unit data and a first magnitude for each data unit in said data transferred through said network when said judgment formed by said judgment means judges that the action was initiated by a first party and for multiplexing a unit cost per unit data and a second magnitude for each data unit in said

data transferred through said network when said judgment formed by said judgment means judges that the action was initiated by a second party,

wherein the first magnitude is a positive magnitude indicating that the first party initiated the action of transferring the data unit and the second magnitude is a negative magnitude indicating that the second party initiated the action of transferring the data unit ; and

transmission means for transmitting said data multiplexed with said unit cost by said multiplexing means through said network,

wherein the transmitted data is comprised of a plurality of data units, each of which comprises an associated magnitude.” (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicant, Ferguson relates to a visual editing system for creating commercial online computer services. The system creates online services that consist of a number of sub-services. Each sub-service is a program that provides a particular type of functionality to the online services. Each sub-service has an associated database of information and a collection of scripts that handle events such as input from a user. The system features a fee setting tool that allows the developer to develop a fee structure for an online service.

Applicant respectfully submits that nothing has been found in Ferguson that would teach or disclose the above-identified features of independent claim 1.

Specifically, Applicant respectfully submits that Ferguson fails to disclose or suggest judgment means for forming a judgment as to which of at least two parties initiated an action for transferring one or more data units through said network, multiplexing means for multiplexing a unit cost per unit data and a first magnitude for each data unit in said data transferred through said network when said judgment formed by said judgment means judges that the action was initiated by a first party and for multiplexing a unit cost per unit data and a

second magnitude for each data unit in said data transferred through said network when said judgment formed by said judgment means judges that the action was initiated by a second party, wherein the first magnitude is a positive magnitude indicating that the first party initiated the action of transferring the data unit and the second magnitude is a negative magnitude indicating that the second party initiated the action of transferring the data unit, and transmission means for transmitting said data multiplexed with said unit cost by said multiplexing means through said network, wherein the transmitted data is comprised of a plurality of data units, each of which comprises an associated magnitude, as recited in claim 1.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 2-4, 7 and 8 are also patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

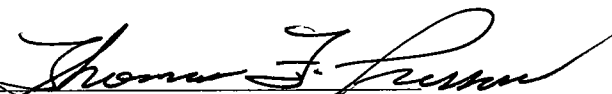
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, providing the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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